

# THE CITIZEN

Vol. 35, No. 23

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart

November 21, 2006

Stuttgart, Oberammergau and Garmisch, Germany

## Have the holiday of your dreams

Events on-, off-post:  
Pages 8, 9 & 16



courtesy  
From traditional German Christmas Markets to on-post tree-lighting ceremonies to U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Winterfest, community members in Stuttgart and Garmisch have a wealth of opportunities to help them make this holiday season the type that memories are made of. For more see pages 8, 9 and 16.

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#### Honoring our nation's heroes

Veterans Day weekend ceremonies pay tribute to American and German service members during separate events in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart and Garmisch.



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#### PHS sports teams round out fall season

Patch High School sports squads compete in a variety of Department of Defense Dependents Schools championship tournaments throughout Europe.





**THERE'S STRONG.  
THEN THERE'S  
ARMY STRONG.**

ARE YOU ARMY STRONG?

goarmy.com

ARMY STRONG.

## Soldier reflects on service's new slogan

By Lt. Col. Wayne Shanks  
Commentary

I have to admit when I first heard 'Army Strong' I thought, "That's it?" But as I've thought about it, Army Strong is much more than two words. It represents the best of the Army; the best of America; the best of each and every Soldier. I think Army Strong works better if you imply "I am, You are or We are" Army Strong, but what does it mean to be Army Strong?

- Army Strong is more than muscles; it's the Soldiers who can endure long patrols constantly alert for hidden dangers, or run faster and further than they ever thought they could.
  - Army Strong is more than sheer military might (tanks, helicopters, artillery, missiles, etc...); it's the Soldiers who drive, fly or shoot all that hardware.
  - Army Strong is more than completing tough training; it's parachuting out of an airplane at 800 feet when you're scared to death of heights.
  - Army Strong is more than being smart; it's having the knowledge and tenacity to develop a way to solve seemingly impossible problems.
  - Army Strong is more than combat operations that destroy an enemy; it's the Soldiers and leaders who plan and execute it – it's Boots on the Ground.
  - Army Strong is more than the pungent smell of burnt gunpowder after a firefight; it's the Soldiers whose well aimed fire protected their buddies.
  - Army Strong is more than intelligence systems, UAVs and GPS; it's the Soldiers who bring that information to the leaders who can use it to stop an insurgent attack.
  - Army Strong is more than beans, bullets and repair parts; it's the Soldiers who ship, manage, prepare, repair and move all the things that keep the Army rolling along.
  - Army Strong is more than just doing what's right; it's the Army values embodied by Soldiers who carry out their duties everyday.
  - Army Strong is more than a "Welcome Home" sign taped to a fence; it's the "Daddy, daddy, daddy!" yelled across a tarmac late at night and a long embrace at the end of a deployment.
  - Army Strong is more than an individual Soldier's strength; it's the teamwork of a well-trained squad executing actions on contact.
- In short, Army Strong is far more than two words; it's the underlying moral fiber, the deep-seated emotions and the total determination every Soldier carries. No one can stop this team – it's Army Strong.

*This commentary originally appeared online on the Army News Web site at [www.army.mil/arnews](http://www.army.mil/arnews). For more "Army Strong" visit [www.goarmy.com/strong](http://www.goarmy.com/strong).*

## THE CITIZEN

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[www.stuttgart.army.mil](http://www.stuttgart.army.mil)

## Chart a path to freedom from debt

By Master Sgt. Jeffrey T. Sanner  
Commentary

Credit card debt is a heavy burden to carry. Current statistics report that American credit card debt is \$785 billion – or an average of about \$7,500 per household.

Yes, credit cards are convenient. The problem arises when we misuse the cards, using them as a supplement to our income.

A good rule to follow when looking to purchase anything is that if you don't know when or how you will pay for an item, then you probably can't afford the item – therefore, you shouldn't "charge it."

But what if you are already over your head in debt, or you just want to knock out some balances you have been carrying? Here are some tips that can help you:

**1. Stop spending.** The first step is to reduce your use and dependence on credit cards. Cut up all but one card with the best terms. Then, freeze the card in a cup of water. This will reduce your access to it, and create a barrier to using it for convenience.

**2. Get on a budget.** You need to know where your money is going before you know how much you can pay toward your cards. This will also ensure that your mandatory bills, i.e. food, housing, car, etc., are paid first.

**3. Establish an emergency fund.** Establishing \$500 to \$1,000 in savings will provide a safety net for life's little emergencies.

**4. Find the hidden money.** If you are honest about your expenditures you probably have some luxuries you could live without. Cable TV, Internet access and cell phone packages are not necessary for survival.

**5. Pay your highest-dollar cards first.** List each of your credit cards, their interest rates, and their minimum pay-

### Help is at hand

*Need help getting out of debt? Or just looking for advice to help improve your personal financial skills? Either way, Army Community Service can help!*

**Stuttgart** – Call 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176 or e-mail [herman.hurd@us.army.mil](mailto:herman.hurd@us.army.mil).

**Garmisch** – Call 440-2777/civ. 08821-750-2777 or e-mail [patricia.howe@us.army.mil](mailto:patricia.howe@us.army.mil).

ments. Pay the minimum balance on the lower interest cards, and then pay the maximum you can afford to the highest interest card. This process is called laddering.

**6. Make two payments a month.** Each payday send a payment to the highest rate credit card company. This pays down the principal faster, and is equal to an extra month's payment over the course of a year.

**7. Consider finding extra income.** A part-time job can help accelerate your debt repayment. Even just a few hours a week can provide a boost.

**8. Seek help.** We go to the doctor when we are sick, so, if your finances are suffering then get some help. Your installation has certified financial counselors on staff ready and willing to help you. Their only goals are to help you, and to ensure your readiness.

You can do this! You have the power to make wise choices and be financially free. It will require discipline, as well as willingness to examine and change spending habits. The good news is that regardless of where you are at, you can chart a course to be free from credit card debt.

*Sanner serves with the Air Force Materiel Command's Manpower, Personnel and Services division. This commentary appeared online at [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil).*



# Stuttgart salutes veterans

## *Ceremony in Patch Chapel honors all who have served, are serving*

Story & photos by  
Hugh C. McBride

Members of the Stuttgart military community gathered in the Patch Chapel Nov. 11 to honor the millions of men and women who have worn – and continue to wear – the uniform of the U.S. armed forces.

Sponsored by American Legion Stuttgart Post 6, the event was an opportunity to honor “those brave men and women who have given a part of themselves to a cause they believe in,” said Legion Post 6 Commander Michael Sloan.

“We celebrate the fact that [U.S. service members] willingly serve so that others may be free,” Sloan said. “Their love of country is above reproach, and their valor is unquestioned.”

The ceremony’s featured speaker was Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Farley of Headquarters, U.S. European Command.

U.S. service members “represent what is best about our country: that Americans are willing to dedicate their lives to a cause greater than themselves,” Farley said. Though Veterans Day ceremonies often focus on those whose service is complete, Farley urged those in attendance to remember – and honor – the men and women who are currently engaged in service to their nation. “It’s another great generation of Americans who are willing to put their boots on the ground and their lives on the line,” Farley said.

Also assisting the Legion in the ceremony were Stuttgart’s Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10810, the Stuttgart Clan of Motorcycle Enthusiasts and the Patch High School Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps.



*Stuttgart Girl Scouts share a moment with a few of the service members and veterans who participated in the Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11 in the Patch Chapel.*



*[Above] Members of the Stuttgart Clan of Motorcycle Enthusiasts roar into Washington Square at the outset of the Nov. 11 Veterans Day ceremony.*

*[Right] Cadets from the Patch High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps prepare to post the colors at the beginning of the ceremony.*



*We celebrate that U.S. service members willingly serve so that others may be free. Their love of country is above reproach and their valor is unquestioned.*

**Michael Sloan**  
American Legion Stuttgart Post 6

## News & Notes

### Career Day on Panzer Kaserne

Stuttgart’s Army Career Alumni Program and Army Community Service are hosting a Career Day Nov. 30, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., in the ACAP Center (Panzer Kaserne, building 2948.) In addition to featuring representatives from a number of corporations, the event will also offer practice interviews, resume assistance and more.

For details or to register call 431-2191/civ. 07031-15-2191 or e-mail [emily.paterson@us.army.mil](mailto:emily.paterson@us.army.mil).

### Adult respite care providers needed

Army Community Service seeks caring individuals to serve as adult respite care providers. The Respite Care Program offers a temporary relief period to family members responsible for the regular care of a person with a disability. Care is provided on an hourly, daily or weekly basis.

For details call 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176.

### AFAP now accepting issues

Stuttgart’s Army Family Action Plan program is accepting issues to be presented during the 2007 AFAP conference in January. Community members are encouraged to submit quality-of-life issues via forms that are available in the Army Community Service office or on-line at [www.stuttgart.army.mil/sites/acs/afap.asp](http://www.stuttgart.army.mil/sites/acs/afap.asp).

Deadline for issue submission is Dec. 15. For more information call 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176.

### GAWC grant applications available

The German-American Women’s Club is now taking applications for 2006-07 grants. Applications can be found at Army Community Service (Washington Center, Patch Barracks).

For more information, or to request an electronic application form, email Roslyn Gallagher at [gallaghr@eucom.mil](mailto:gallaghr@eucom.mil).

### Kelley/RB banks closed Nov. 23

Community banks on Kelley and Robinson Barracks will be closed Nov. 23 in recognition of Thanksgiving. On this day, service will be available at community banks on Patch Barracks and Panzer Kaserne 9 a.m. to noon.

Normal business hours will resume on Nov. 24. For more information email [kelley.bks.stgt.bc@bank-of-america.de](mailto:kelley.bks.stgt.bc@bank-of-america.de).

### Red Cross job opening, gift wrapping

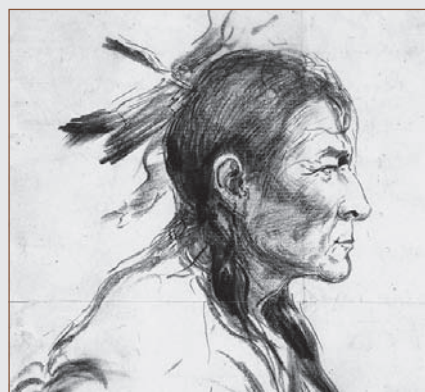
Get those holiday trinkets bundled up by the American Red Cross as they host their annual gift wrapping event Nov. 25/26 and Dec. 2/3, 1 to 4 p.m., in the Robinson Barracks CX.

The American Red Cross seeks an after-hours emergency communication specialist to deliver ARC messages and perform casework services. This is a full-time position. Must be able to work weekends and holidays. To apply, go to [www.redcross.org/jobs/](http://www.redcross.org/jobs/) and select position number, 4733BR. For details call the Stuttgart-based ARC office at 431-2334/civ. 07031-15-2334.

### Chorus concert on

Enjoy the sounds of the holidays as the Stuttgart German-American Community Chorus hosts its annual Christmas concert Dec. 12, 5 p.m., in the St. Laurentius Church, located in the Freiberg district on Max-Brodth-Weg 2. The concert will include Antonio Salieri’s Mass No. 1 in D Major and popular Christmas songs. For more information email [noreen.odonovan@arcor.de](mailto:noreen.odonovan@arcor.de).

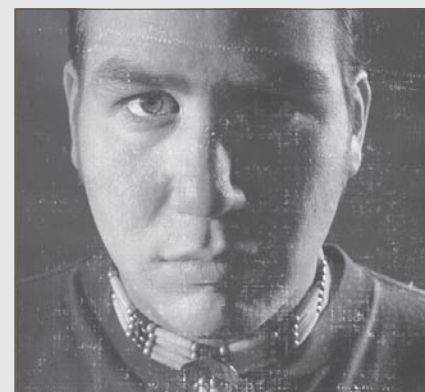
## USAG Stuttgart Native American Heritage Celebration



**‘A Warrior’s Tradition: Contributing to Our Nation’s Freedom’**

**Patch Fitness Center**  
**November 28 — 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.**

**Cultural Performances — Music & Dance — Food Sampling — And More!**  
**All community members are invited to attend this free event.**  
**For more information call DSN 0162-297-5922**





# The Broadway Café

*'Stuttgart's newest hot spot' adds theatrical flair to lunchtime opportunities on Kelley Barracks*

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart  
Public Affairs Office Release

Lunchtime options on Kelley Barracks got a theatrically themed boost Nov. 9, when the Broadway Café officially opened for business following a ribbon-cutting ceremony in the former lobby of the Kelley Theatre.

With a decor that evokes images of the Golden Age of Broadway, the café offers delicious coffee, enticing baked goods and a comfortable environment in which to enjoy them both.

Candlelit tables lend themselves to intense conversations, while a magazine rack filled with journals, periodicals and newspapers offers ready companions for those who wish to enjoy the afternoon in the solitude of the printed word.

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Commander Col. Kenneth G. Juergens, who helped cut the ribbon during the café's opening ceremony, described the new facility as a "win-win for everyone" in the Stuttgart military community. "It's something the community really needed," he said.

The café, Juergens said, was the result of a concerted effort by a number of community members, including his wife, Gaby; volunteer Angie Brockman; Joe Podles of the USAG Stuttgart Directorate of Morale,

## The Broadway Café Hours of Operation

In addition to show nights, the café is open on the following days:

**Thursdays & Fridays**  
**10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Sundays**  
**Noon to 3 p.m.**

The Broadway Café is available to host your next meeting or party.

For details e-mail  
alan.buxkemper@us.army.mil.



Welfare and Recreation; and personnel from the garrison's Directorate of Logistics, Directorate of Public Works and Total Maintenance Stuttgart.

"This venture is the latest addition in our effort to serve our community," Juergens said. "This is a wonderful place to gather with friends, hold an organizational meeting, or simply enjoy a quiet, reflective moment with a magazine and a great cup of coffee."



[Above] Customers enjoy coffee and carrot cake in the newly opened Broadway Café

[Right] The perfect place for a relaxing afternoon: The Broadway Café (adjacent to the Kelley Theatre) offers a cozy & inviting space for groups and individuals.



## AFTB Level 1 Training

ACS class helps family members 'reach maximum potential'

Story and photo by Brandon Beach

Know what to do when you hear a bugle call at 6 o'clock? Know what a FRG stands for? The answers to these and other questions relating to U.S. military life can be answered at the next Army Family Team Building class.

"I've never lived on a military base before," said Marian DeAngelo, whose husband works as a cartographer for U.S. European Command on Patch Barracks. As of Oct. 24, when she took the Level 1 training course, she had been in Germany for exactly 18 days. "I think it's only fair to understand what's going on here."

Knowing what's going on starts, according to Jan Metz, an AFTB volunteer master trainer, with speaking the same language, and military jargon can often be a cryptic affair for any newcomer.

During Level 1 training (there are three levels), Metz devotes a majority of the course to topics such as deciphering military terms, recognizing uniformed ranks and understanding courtesies.

"It's designed to improve the performance of families in our military," said Metz, who, besides being a trainer since 2000, has been a spouse to a military officer for the last 24 years. "It's an important educational tool for our community."

Giving family members the right tools

*'I've never lived on a military base before. I think it's only fair to understand what's going on here.'*

Marian DeAngelo  
Stuttgart Civilian

means informing them on what's out there, and with four bases here in Stuttgart, it's good to know that you can register your kids for sports at the Child and Youth Services on Patch and you can roll some balls at Galaxy Bowling on Panzer.

"There are so many resources in this community," said AFTB trainer Alba Lopez to start off the second part of the training, simply titled, "Who Ya Gonna Call?" "You just have to know where to find them."

Getting family members on the right track has been the mission of the Army since it set up the course in the early 1990's after the Persian Gulf War, as it realized the need to educate family members dealing with deployments that could last extended periods of time. The goal was to ensure that family members could tackle a broad spectrum of challenges relating to daily life on their own, some-

thing as simple as paying a telephone bill.

"It helps families reach their maximum potential," said Legia Speers, director of Army Community Service, "so they feel empowered in their own community."

(By the way: During a 6 o'clock bugle call, also referred to as revelry, it is appropriate to stop your activity and face the flag. If there is no flag in sight, turn in the direction of the music. A Family Readiness Group, or FRG, sponsors newcomers to a unit).

The next AFTB Level 1 training is Nov. 28, 10 a.m. to noon, in the Army Community Service (located on the second floor of Washington Center, Patch Barracks). The training is open to all community members, and children are allowed to attend. For more information or to register call 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176.



Jan Metz, a master trainer with the Army Family Team Building Program, leads an Oct. 24 Level 1 training in the ACS classroom on Patch Barracks while a member of the Stuttgart military community watches on.



# Red Ribbon Week at RB

## Annual campaign promotes drug-free choices

Story and photos by Brandon Beach

Seventh-grader Arielle Reynolds wants to be a lawyer when she grows up. To get there, she knows she will have to spend countless hours pouring over text books, writing essays on the intricacies of the judicial system and taking out way too many college loans.

She also knows what won't get her there. "I know I won't succeed if I do drugs," she said.

Robinson Barracks Elementary/Middle School wrapped up a week of educational activities Oct. 27 geared toward Red Ribbon Week, the national campaign to educate students about drugs and alcohol.

"Our children are already thinking about where they want to go and how to get there," said Randy Zamerinsky-Lussier, a counselor with the Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Service program. "The goal is to give them the right information, so they make good choices."

During the week, students, in the top three grade-levels, took part in an essay writing contest under the topic, "How does being drug free fit into my goal of living a healthy lifestyle?" The RBEMS Parent-Teacher-Student Association read the essays and decided upon winners by week's end.

Amber Spraker, sixth-grade, Claire Logsdon, seventh-grade, and Alex Whitmire, eighth-grade, all took home gift bags filled with t-shirts, key chains and \$15



*Claire Logsdon, a seventh-grader at Robinson Barracks, took first place in the school's essay writing contest, one of many activities that happened during Red Ribbon Week.*

AAFES coupons.

For many students, their time at the writing table provided a valuable outlet to reflect on the meaning of a drug-free life.

"I wouldn't be able to swim if I did drugs," said seventh-grader Madeline Gilbert, a member of the Stuttgart Piranhas Swim Team.

"Everyone wants to live and be healthy. Therefore, drugs have no place in any lifestyle," wrote Spraker in her essay.

That, for Dr. Shirley Sheck, the school's principal, was time well spent.

"All the activities, especially the essays, engaged the students and made an important impact," she said. "They are learning about good choices before they get caught up in the pressures of their peers."

Red Ribbon Week "spirit" also spilled into the students' choice of school attire as each day was devoted to a particular theme, such as Monday's "Sock It To Drugs Day" or Friday's "Give Drugs the Boot."

Classroom doors, throughout the week, reflected the school's commitment to a drug-

free lifestyle, as Robin Hess's sixth-grade class was recognized the winner of the door decorating contest.

At the same time, a variety of activities took place at Patch High School with students pouring their creativity into the poster contest sponsored by the National Honor Society.

At Boeblingen Elementary/Middle School, Jasmin Coty, the school's ASACS counselor, conducted numerous activities there.

For Zamerinsky-Lussier, the Red Ribbon campaign to educate students on the benefits of smart and healthy life choices doesn't just stop by week's end or within the classroom.

"It's about being responsible, making decisions and knowing the effects," said Zamerinsky-Lussier. "It goes way beyond the classroom. Every door is always open to them."

*In addition to alcohol/drug education prevention services, Zamerinsky-Lussier leads building groups for Stuttgart-area youth.*

*These sessions cover a variety of topics such as peer pressure, decision making, problem solving and stress/anger management.*

*She also provides free consultation to parents by appointment.*

*For more information call Zamerinsky-Lussier at 430-7041/civ. 0711-680-7041 or email zamerinskyr@6asg.army.mil.*

*To reach Coty call 430-8237/civ. 0711-680-8237 or email cotyj@eur.army.mil.*

## HEALTH CARE CORNER

### U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart

#### Hours of Operation

Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri.: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Thursdays: 1 to 4 p.m.

#### Military Sick Call

Mon. to Fri.: 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.  
Thursdays, 1 to 2 p.m.

#### Pharmacy

M, T, W, F: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Thursdays: 1 to 4 p.m.

#### Immunizations

Walk-in basis  
Closed noon to 1 p.m.

#### Well Baby Care

Every Tuesday

#### Laboratory

M, T, W, F: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Thursdays: 1 to 4 p.m.

#### Physical Exams

Active-duty only (by appt.)  
430-6817/civ. 0711-680-6817

#### Well Woman Care

Every Wednesday

#### Appointments

430-8610/civ. 0711-680-8610 or 430-8611/civ. 0711-680-8611  
Tricare beneficiaries can also make appointments online.  
Visit [www.tricareonline.com](http://www.tricareonline.com).

### Stuttgart Dental Clinic

#### Hours of Operation

Mon. to Fri.: 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. & 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

#### Active-Duty Sick Call

Mon. to Fri.: 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

#### All Others Sick Call

Mon. to Fri.: 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

#### Appointments

430-8626/civ. 0711-680-8626

### Garmisch Dental Clinic

#### Hours of Operation

Mon., Wed & Fri: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Tue: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. / Thurs: 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

#### Military Sick Call

Mon. to Fri.: 7:30 to 8 a.m.

#### Appointments

440-3414/civ. 08821-750-3414

#### Note

*Dental services are extremely limited for patients other than active-duty service members and their families.*

**In case of an after-hours emergency call the MP desk to access the on-call patient liaison:**  
Stuttgart 430-5262/civ. 0711-680-5262 / Garmisch 440-3827/civ. 08821-750-3827



# Sending something home for the holidays? Customs, mailroom officials offer advice

U.S. European Command Customs &  
Border Clearance Agency Public Affairs Office

Mailing packages stateside from Europe involves many prohibitions, restrictions and import duty rules. U.S. personnel can avoid the pitfalls by getting the "International Mail Imports" pamphlet from a military customs office.

"Many people do not know that Customs and Border Protection may fine you at least \$100 if you mail meat or any meat products to the States," said Bill Johnson, director of the U.S. European Command Customs and Border Clearance Agency.

Banned products include canned meats, pâté, salami, sausage and soup mixes containing meat. It is also illegal to mail handguns, alcoholic beverages and a whole list of other items to the United States.

Other articles not on the banned list may be restricted and need special import permits. Be sure to note the following before doing your holiday mailing:

- A **customs declaration** must be fixed to every parcel going to the States – and falsifying it is a federal crime.
- "You must also realize that foreign-made goods sent to the United States are subject to the payment of duty," Johnson cautioned. "Even if you mail the items to yourself or buy them in a military exchange, the recipient may still have to pay duty and the customs user fee."
- U.S. residents may receive up to **\$100 worth of foreign-made goods per day**, but have to pay duty on the total value of gifts exceeding that amount.
- **Mailing fresh fruits and vegetables is prohibited.** The

## Mailroom, mailing information for Stuttgart & Garmisch

Department of Defense postal officials advise adhering to the following deadlines in order to ensure that holiday packages arrive by Dec. 24:

- Parcel Post: November 13
- Space Available Mail: November 27
- Parcel Airlift Mail: December 4
- Priority/1st Class Mail: December 11
- Express Mail Military Service: December 19

For more information about Army Post Offices call 421-4149/civ. 0711-729-4149.

Community Mailrooms in Stuttgart & Garmisch will be open on Saturdays (and one Sunday) in November and December to help alleviate the holiday mailing rush.

- November 18 & 25 – Noon to 3 p.m.
- Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 – Noon to 3 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 24 – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- January 7 – Noon to 3 p.m.

For CMR info. call 430-4069/civ. 0711-680-4069 or e-mail [mike.geoghegan@us.army.mil](mailto:mike.geoghegan@us.army.mil).

threat to U.S. agriculture is so great that Customs and Border Protection fine people who mail or take banned foods to the States a minimum of \$100 and a maximum of \$250 as a deterrent.

Criminal action for deliberate cases of smuggling can result in a \$5,000 fine and a year in jail.

• The U.S. Postal Service **bans all liquor** from being mailed, even if it is inside a piece of candy.

However, customs allows travelers over 21 years of age to import one liter of duty-free liquor.

• **Cuban rum and cigars** are also available in Europe but prohibited from import stateside by economic sanctions.

• Wildlife products also present problems. **Buying ivory as a gift is a bad idea**, according to customs officials. "Only

ivory pieces previously registered with Customs and Border Protection may be imported," Johnson said.

• Many European countries have a tradition of making **nativity scenes**.

However, the natural products used to make them are often banned from import to the United States because of agricultural pests could be nested in them. Individuals can be fined \$100 or more if they mail scenes that contain moss, bark, pinecones, untreated straw or other materials found to contain insects.

For more about mailing or other customs matters call the U.S. Forces Customs Office at 431-2731 / civ. 07031-15-2731 or visit [www.hqusaureur.army.mil/opm/customs.htm](http://www.hqusaureur.army.mil/opm/customs.htm).

## Read It Before You Sign It

### Legal office recommends steps to protect yourself

By Cpt. Mike Watts  
Stuttgart Law Center

As Billy Joel says, "Get it right the first time. That's the main thing." That's great advice. Any document that you sign is an extremely powerful thing. People often come to the legal office saying "Well, I was in a hurry to PCS and everything was just crazy, so I just signed it." That is not music to an attorney's ears.

Separation agreements are one example. All too often servicemembers sign separation agreements that they did not completely read. Unfortunately, this means that they often want to change it after they have signed it. That is not as simple as it may sound. A separation agreement is a contract, and you can not change it without the other party's agreement. Moreover, if the separation agreement is presented to a judge and is incorporated into a divorce decree or child support order, then that separation agreement went from being a contract to being a court order. The only way to change it is to go back to court. And when you are stationed in Germany, that is a hard thing to do.

This is also true with German documents. Do not assume that the other party is acting in your best interests or that you will not be required to comply with the terms of the document because you could not read or understand the language the document was written in. Once you sign the documents and agree

to what it says, it is a contract and you must comply with the terms.

Whenever anyone presents you with a legal document, make sure you follow these steps to protect your best interests: (1) Read it thoroughly. That means every word of it. (2) Understand it. Make sure you know what the words mean and the effect they will have on you. Ask yourself what this document does. (3) Ask questions. If you do not understand it, take time to ask about it. If you still do not understand, schedule an appointment with your legal office. (4) Make sure you understand what is expected of you if you sign the document. Most documents outline the rights and responsibilities of the people who sign them. Ask yourself what a document requires of you, and what it requires another party to do.

In our daily lives, we are presented with many things to sign, and taking the time to read them all might seem like a big burden. But remember, by reading an agreement and understanding it, you will save yourself time and expense, and the trouble of having to tell your lawyer this story: "I know I should have read what it said, but I was in a hurry. Now I'm in trouble. Can you help me?" That's a story every lawyer has heard before, and would like to hear less and less.

For more information contact the Stuttgart Law Center at 421-4152/civ. 0711-729-4152.



[Left to right] Carl Malone, Col. Joseph Brendler, Brig. Gen. Dennis L. Via and Lt. Col. William Duggan welcome the 52nd Signal Battalion's new defense message center.

## Battalion unveils defense message center in ceremony

Story and photo by Raquel Hicks

The 52nd Signal Battalion celebrated the consolidation of European communications into one location at the Defense Message Center Oct. 4 on Patch Barracks. In addition, a ceremony was also held at the newly renovated Dial Service Attendant facility, which is now the single source for telephonic operator assistance in over 46 dial areas making it a change from 22 previous locations.

Col. Joseph Brendler stated, "This is another significant milestone in the development of enterprise architecture for Europe. Today, 52nd Signal assumes sole responsibility for all messaging in Europe."

The newly revamped message center features state-of-the-art technology combining all military communication centers, previously located throughout Europe, into one high-tech facility. The center is responsible for all messaging throughout the EUCOM area of responsibility and U.S. Army Europe.

Brigadier Gen. Dennis L. Via remarked that, "Today marks a significant event in a series of events in our ongoing transformation," said Brig. Gen. Dennis Via, Commanding General, 5th Signal Command. "The opening of these two facilities aids our continued efforts to provide valuable communication services both in theater and to our deployed warfighters."



# PHS Fall Sports Roundup

## Sports teams compete in DoDDS Champs tournaments

Story and photos by Brandon Beach

Patch High School fall sports teams wrapped up its first season in Division 1 competition with Panther athletes taking on Europe's best during Department of Defense Dependents Schools championship tournaments held throughout Europe during October and November.

It started out a Cinderella story for the PHS football team at the start of the season as the Panthers knocked off one D1 team after another and jumped out to a perfect 4-0 record. European D2 champs last year, for the Panthers, the 2006 season marked the school's debut in D1 athletics.

But back-to-back losses to Ramstein (Oct. 14) and Heidelberg (Oct. 20) stopped the Panthers inches from the goal line, and with a 4-2 record, the team entered the D1 playoffs ranked third.

That set up a do-or-die showdown on Heidelberg's home turf Oct. 28. The Lions blanked Patch 13-0 to set up a championship final against Ramstein the following week. Despite the loss, Patch was not without some standout play from both sides of the snap.

With 52 tackles and 10 sacks on the season, senior Matt Gorry earned a spot on the all-conference 1st team.

Senior Daniel Kennedy rushed for 516 total yards (that in just six games), and most of them coming behind the blocking heels of offensive lineman Brad Bergfeld, also a PHS senior. In addition to Gorry, the duo earned spots on the all-conference 1st team.

Second team all-conference nods went out to Brian Taylor, Sean Thomas, Klavius Gramercia, Matt Martinez, Sebastian Casciaro and Brandon Perry.

"The guys competed really well against some big D1 teams," said Todd Taylor, one of several coaches on the team.

In Kaiserslautern, the Lady Panther volleyballers knocked off Wiesbaden (Nov. 2) and Kaiserslautern (Nov. 3) during their

*The guys competed really well against some big D1 teams.*

**Todd Taylor**  
Coach, PHS Football

march through round-robin play at European Champs.

But the team took a 25:20, 25:23 loss to Heidelberg in the semifinals that halted their advance and went on to finish fourth overall at the tournament.

Senior Kasy'e Lalau earned a spot on the all-conference 1st team for her solid play at the net.

The PHS tennis team sliced its way through league play posting impressive 5-1 (boys) and 4-2 (girls) records.

During the European championship tournament, held Oct. 26 to 28 on the Wiesbaden courts, Patch finished fifth overall, while the doubles teams of Sean Crowley/Zach Schoonover and Tamara Oppliger/Michelle Whitbeck earned fourth-place honors.

Rounding out the sports lineup, Andrew Tribble fired his way to an eighth-place finish at the Rheinblick Golf Club in Wiesbaden during the two-day European Championship tournament Oct. 13 to 14.

With the fall season now over, winter sports squads (wrestling, basketball and rifle) kickoff their D1 season with practice already starting Nov. 13. Competition begins at the end of the month.

For more information on Patch High School sports or to get the winter schedule visit [www.stut-hs-hs.eu.dodea.edu](http://www.stut-hs-hs.eu.dodea.edu) or call 431-7191/civ. 0711-680-7191.



*PHS junior Mariel McNevin returns a serve against her Hanau opponent during an Oct. 7 match on Patch. The PHS tennis team finished fifth in European Champs this year.*



*[Above] A player for the PHS junior varsity football team tries to round the corner against a Würzburg defender Oct. 7. On the varsity side, the season wrapped up with a Division 1 playoff showdown against Heidelberg. The Lions edged Patch 13-0. [Right] The PHS cheerleading squad gave the fall sports squads quite a boost.*



## PHS runner takes 'love of hills' to Europeans

Story by Brandon Beach

Maggie Redmond knew she could run, really run, in the fifth grade. All it took was one race in Mt. Pellier, Vt., where she grew up.

On that day, the city had organized a run for local youth in grades fifth to seventh.

It was her first long-distance dash, and Redmond can still recall the bicyclist who pedaled at the front of the pack to make sure that nobody got lost.

"I remember running in front of him, and he told me to slow down because I was going too fast," she said.

Redmond won that race, and since then, hasn't stopped running.

Now a junior at Patch High School, Redmond is still finding a way to outpace the field, only this time, as a member of the PHS cross-country team.

Even before the 2006 season officially got started, Redmond found a way to get a jump on her competition.



Hugh C. McBride

*Cross country standout Maggie Redmond is all alone during a runaway victory on Patch.*

She traveled to Gunnison, Colo., in August to take part in a five-day distance-running camp held at Western State College.

Wake up time, she said, was 5:30 a.m. sharp, and it was off for a jog just before

sunrise. Later in the day, she would hike with the group to the summit of Crested Butte, at just over 12,000 feet.

"You really notice a difference going from that altitude back here to Germany," she said.

"It really helped build my lung capacity."

That extra training paid dividends in her first meet in Hohenfels, where she set a course record of 23 minutes over the 5,000 meter layout Sept. 30. She followed that up with a first-place finish in the Oct. 7 triangular meet held here on Patch, her favorite course.

"I love the hills here," she said. "I feel I'm the strongest on hills, and we have five of them, so I can really push it."

In Heidelberg, during the DoDDS European Championship Oct. 28, she found herself neck-and-neck in second place with junior Sandra Davidson of Bitburg in the last kilometer of the race.

The finish would come down to the wire. But that little girl, who frustrated the bicyclist during a run in Mt. Pellier so long ago, found a way to jump out ahead again.

She took second by only one second. "When it came down to the sprint, I knew that I wanted it more, and I wasn't going to let it pass me by," she said. "I knew I'd regret it if I did."



# Sample season’s splendors at German Christmas Markets

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

It’s time again to stroll through your favorite *Weihnachtsmarkt* (or *Christkindlmarkt*), known to most Americans as a Christmas market.  
If you haven’t had the chance to enjoy a German Christmas market, take the opportunity this year to experience centuries old traditions and the warm and inviting atmosphere of the German holiday season.

## Augsburg

- Conducted for more than five centuries, this is regarded as one of the oldest and most beautiful Christmas markets in Bavaria. Booths are set up at the market square in front of the Renaissance Rathaus.
- **Shopping hours:** Nov. 30 to Dec. 24 – Mondays to Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sundays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## Baden+Baden

- Against the picturesque backdrop of the Kurhaus and the Colon-nades lit up by thousands of lights, this famous spa town’s Christkindlmarkt offers a variety of choirs, orchestras and bands to put visitors from around the world in the Christmas mood.
- More than 50 beautifully decorated stands will be offering an extensive array of products – including crafts, toys, and carvings.
- Another traditional attraction is a “living crèche” with lambs, sheep and a shepherd. ([www.baden-baden.de/en/index.html](http://www.baden-baden.de/en/index.html))
- **Shopping hours:** Nov. 24 to Dec. 26 – 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Christmas Eve, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; closed Nov. 26

## Bonn

- The impressive illuminated façades on Münsterplatz and along neighboring streets form the festive backdrop for Bonn’s Christmas market.
- The beautiful old town hall is transformed into an enormous Ad-vent calendar, with one more window lit up each day. Additional attrac-tions include Christmas concerts.
- **Shopping hours:** Nov 24 to Dec. 23 – Mon. to Fri. and Sun. 11am to 8pm; Sat 10:30 am to 8 p.m.; closed Nov. 26 ([www.bonn.de](http://www.bonn.de))

## Dresden

- Dating to 1434, Dresden’s Striezelmarkt is Germany’s oldest Christmas market. Shoppers love Dresden for its treasure trove of traditional handicrafts.
- **Shopping hours:** Nov. 24 to Dec. 24 – Sundays to Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Christmas Eve, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. ([www.dresden.de](http://www.dresden.de))

## Esslingen

- With torches lining the paths of this magnificent Renaissance town, you feel like you are stepping back into a medieval fairytale.
- Market traders ornate in historical costumes offer their wares while mountebanks, musicians and fireeaters keep everyone entertained.
- **Shopping hours:** Nov. 30 to Dec. 22 – Daily, 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

## Frankfurt

- The Frankfurt Christmas market has become one of the best known in all of Germany due to its size (more than 200 businesses) and the historical background of the “Römerberg.”
- No visit to this market is complete without stopping to see the symbol of the season, a 30-meter high Christmas tree.
- **Shopping hours:** Nov. 23 to Dec. 22 – Mondays to Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. ([www.frankfurt.de](http://www.frankfurt.de))

## The tradition continues ... ‘Winterfest’ on Patch Barracks

Friday, Dec. 1, 5 p.m.  
Celebrate the start of the season with family & friends.

Enjoy a traditional German Christmas Market,  
and so much more (for details see ad on page 16)

Tree lighting ceremonies will also be held  
on other installations in Stuttgart & Garmisch:

- Nov. 27- Panzer Kaserne Housing Area
- Nov. 28- Kelley Barracks Theatre
- Nov. 30- Robinson Barracks Community Club
- Dec. 4- Artillery Kaserne (Garmisch/5:30 p.m.)

Stuttgart’s tree lighting ceremonies begin at 5 p.m.



For more about Christmas Markets in Germany  
visit [www.weihnachtsmarkt-deutschland.de](http://www.weihnachtsmarkt-deutschland.de).

## Heidelberg

- Sales, food and beverage booths are set up along Hauptstrasse on Kornmarkt, Marketplatz around the Heiliggeistkirche in front of city hall (which is illuminated daily) and on Universitätsplatz.
- **Shopping hours:** Nov. 29 to Dec. 23 – Daily, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

## Ludwigsburg

- This very special and romantic Christmas market has more than 160 sales, food and beverage booths set up at the pictures market in the heart of Ludwigsburg, just a short drive from Stuttgart.
- **Shopping hours:** Nov. 27 to Dec. 23 – Mondays to Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

## Möhringen

- One day only, but well worth the short drive (for Stuttgart resi-dents, that is) to Möhringen.
- The city’s 30th annual Christkindlesmarkt will be held in the vicinity of the historic *Martinskirche* and the *Bezirksrathaus* (regional town hall).
- **Shopping hours:** Nov. 26 – 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## Munich

- Held on the Marientplatz in the heart of the city.
- Among many attractions are a creche with life-sized figures and the daily singing of Christmas carols from the city hall balcony.
- Children can enjoy free activities every day.
- **Shopping hours:** Nov. 30 to Dec. 23 – Mondays to Fridays, 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Sundays, 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m

## Rothenburg

- This market dates back to the 15th century and is described by “those in the know” as one of Germany’s best Christmas markets.
- The market is held beneath the twin towers and the illuminated windows of St. Jacobs Church. ([www.rothenburg.de](http://www.rothenburg.de))
- **Shopping hours:** Dec. 1 to 23 – Mondays to Fridays, 12:30 to 7 p.m., Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Sundays, 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

## Stuttgart

- This is one of the largest Christmas markets in Europe and has been a Stuttgart tradition since 1692. ([www.stuttgart-tourist.de](http://www.stuttgart-tourist.de))
- Located in Stuttgart’s city center (near the Königstrasse, a short walk from the Hauptbahnhof), the market includes a village of more than 200 stands.
- Sales booths offer a plethora of holiday-related items – including wooden toys, Christmas ornaments, gingerbread, roasted almonds, grilled sausage and of course mulled wine.
- Younger attendees may be most impressed by the children’s rail-way, merry-go-round and fairy tale land.
- **Shopping hours:** Nov. 30 to Dec. 23 – Mon. to Fri., 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

## Tübingen

- About 450 individually designed stalls are erected in front of Tübingen’s beautiful half-timbered houses for two weekends only. Don’t miss the incredible warmth and friendliness of this event.
- **Days of Operation:** Dec. 15 to 17 ([www.tuebingen.de](http://www.tuebingen.de))

## Ulm

- More than 120 sales, food and beverage booths will be set up in front of the Ulmer Münster, the town’s famous cathedral.
- **Shopping hours:** Nov. 27 to Dec. 22 – Mondays to Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.



# Great American Pumpkin Drop

## Annual event makes big splat at Patch Elementary

Story & photos by Brandon Beach

Sydney Croxton stepped up onto the hydraulic lift and waved a final goodbye to the crowd of Patch Elementary School kids already chanting, “higher, higher,” even before liftoff.

“I’m a little nervous,” confessed the junior from Patch High School just before she was whisked 75 feet into the air.

On a brisk fall morning Oct. 21, Croxton, along with a member of the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Fire Department, who stood beside her at crane’s end, kicked off the 4th-annual Great American Pumpkin Drop with a crowd-pleasing “splat” that sent pumpkin guts rocketing over the PES playground.

“Half the fun is when the pumpkins don’t hit the target,” said PES Principal Bob Allen.

As a heavy wind wisped her hair, Croxton let go the second pumpkin, and within seconds, poof, it disappeared into a four-by-four-foot cardboard box, caught like a baseball in a catcher’s mitt.

Weeks of scientific head scratching had boiled down to this single moment of impact. Not to mention that her final grade was on the line.

More than 20 PHS students from Brad Rehwaldt’s Physics 1 and AP classes took part in the annual pumpkin smash-a-thon, an event that echoes the fabled experiment Galileo conducted at the top of the Leaning Tower of Pisa, only this time around with a little more “splat.”

Students partnered with various PES classes to design a box that could effectively absorb the impact of a fast-moving pumpkin, in this case, traveling at a speed of more than 50 miles per hour.

What was stuffed in that box, be it pillows, balloons, marshmallows or “frogs,” as one PES student suggested to senior Amy Bragg, was anyone’s “choix du gras.”

“They came up with some crazy ideas,” said Bragg, who noted that live hoppers did not make it into her box. “I loved hanging out with all these kids.”

Crazy ideas were not limited to the elementary students either.

Senior Brian Taylor stacked over 50 packages of Top Ramen noodles into his box. “It’s cheap and can take a lot of impact,” he said. “Plus it won’t bounce.”

Brad Armstrong, also a senior, tied off the corners of a bed sheet with 2-liter bottles of Pepsi. “The bottles serve as counter weights,” he said. “It’s like at a circus when someone jumps into a net.”

Be it counter weights, kinetic and potential energy or Newton’s Second Law, the most difficult part, for many PHS students, was playing the role of teacher.

“The biggest challenge is to talk about physics on a level they can understand,” said Croxton. “You really find out quick if you know your stuff.”

For their part, PES students decorated each box with artwork representing one of several pumpkin-producing states, the top three being Illinois, California and Washington.

“We’re lucky to have the high school so close,” said Allen. “The students can really identify with the younger kids.”

The PES Parent-Teacher Association donated five pallets of pumpkins, one for every student, to the event. There were not many that survived the death-defying fall that



[Top] Bombs away! At 75 feet in the air, a PHS student drops a pumpkin toward his target Oct. 21.

[Right] A member of the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Fire Department steadies the hydraulic lift platform during a windy fall morning on Patch.



‘The best part was making friends with the high school students and getting to know them better.

Kate Lampman  
PES fifth-grader

day, as Croxton found out when she pulled out a half-cracked pumpkin from the bottom of her bubble wrap-lined box.

In the end, after the judges had tallied their final scores and the last “drop it, drop it” chant had been sung, junior Franklyn Barber and Jan Lowry’s first-grade class took top honors.

“The best part was making friends with the high school students and getting to know them better,” said fifth-grader Kate Lampman.

For more information on upcoming events at Patch Elementary School visit [www.patch-es.eu.dodea.edu](http://www.patch-es.eu.dodea.edu).



[Left] Firefighters load a pumpkin onto the lift platform. [Left] A box stuffed with Top Ramen noodles takes a heavy blow. [Below] PES students look skyward for the next drop.







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# Garmisch community role plays emergency operations center during table-top exercise

Story and photos by Sue Ferrare

When it comes to emergency response, the U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch is leaving nothing to chance.

Lt. Col. Peter Lee, Garmisch Garrison Chief of Security and Operations, led an Emergency Operations Center table-top exercise on Nov. 7 and 9 to further familiarize the EOC personnel with their roles and responsibilities as well as EOC procedures.

One of the first things Lee did was to make sure all the key personnel had battle books that were specific to their position. He also supplied EOC personnel with formats and templates for various reports and other paperwork that might be needed during an emergency.

"Lt. Col. Lee gave us all battle books and said this is a bare minimum of what you have to have in there, and then if you need to expand it you can [depending on] what different requirements you have," said Capt. Victoria Peters, Garmisch Garrison Director of Emergency Services.

Exercise personnel spent the first day on seeing specifically how an EOC was set up, something that Peters said had not been done here before.

"It was like, this is an EOC, and this is who's allowed to be here," she said. "This is who's not going to be here because they are going to be out doing the mission. These are the things we accomplish here. These are the things we don't talk about in an EOC. I really think that's what Tuesday's two hours was about; really doing just the bare basics."

Learning what an EOC is responsible for and what each person is responsible for if they are sitting in the EOC were two of the main questions that were asked the first day of the exercise, Peters said.

The second day was spent working on a scenario where, Peters said, participants could 'think out loud' about their roles and what the community expected of them and their directorates.

Steven Gauthier, who recently took over

*It was a good introduction to the inner workings of the community and provided some positive insight into the high level of teamwork this community has developed.*

**Steven Gauthier**  
Garmisch MWR Director

the position of Garmisch Garrison Director of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, felt that this exercise went very well and was useful.

"Each department has the responsibility to ensure that they have well thought out procedures put into place, which are regularly evaluated for improvement," he said.

He also said that, as a newcomer, it was a good way for him to become familiar with the community.

"It was good introduction to the inner workings of the community and provided some positive insight into the high level of teamwork this community has developed," Gauthier said.

When asked her overall impression of this exercise compared to some of the other EOC exercises, Peters said she was pleased at how things worked out.

"It went a lot smoother," she said. "I think sometimes you have to get all the players in a room and really talk it through. Some of the things we all knew the answer to and some of the other questions, we didn't. So it was good to have all the smart people or players in there."



Lt. Col. Peter Lee [left], Chief of Security and Operations, leads a round-table discussion with Garmisch community leaders during an emergency-based training exercise Nov. 7.

## Marshall Center professor publishes book on security

Story and photo by Joseph Ferrare

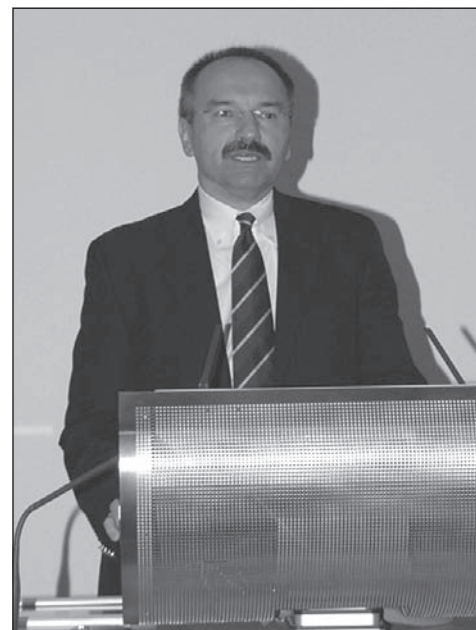
A Marshall Center professor has recently published a book examining whether the relationships the United States forged with North and Central Europe during the Cold War are still viable in the post-9/11 security environment.

Dr. Andrew A. Michta, professor of national security studies at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, raises the broad question of whether traditional alliances and NATO are still viable ways to deal with security concerns in *The Limits of Alliance: The United States, NATO and the EU in North and Central Europe*.

In his book, Michta highlights how the historical legacies, regional geostrategic constraints and individual capabilities of North and Central European nations have shaped their responses to the new security environment.

He discusses the key questions of the extent to which NATO still matters to the United States and whether the European Union can become a partner to the U.S. in the new security environment.

Michta, a leading authority on European security, came to the Marshall Center in 2005 from Rhodes College in Tennessee, where he



Dr. Andrew Michta, shown here in a recent photo giving a talk at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, published a book on the post-9/11 security environment.

is the Mertie W. Buckman Distinguished Professor of International Studies.

For more information on the Marshall Center visit [www.marshallcenter.org](http://www.marshallcenter.org).

## Garmisch welcomes new MWR director on board

Story by Sue Ferrare

The Garmisch American community welcomed a new director of Moral, Welfare and Recreation, Steven Gauthier, in October. He will be taking over for Ellen Harris, who has been the acting director for almost a year.

Gauthier comes from Würzburg where he was the Business and Recreation Manager, and brings with him 24 years of MWR service in recreation, Child and Youth Services and business for the Army and Navy. He said that his many years of front door experience in a wide variety of MWR positions and locations have prepared him for the challenges of the Garmisch job.

Two of his greatest accomplishments, he said, have been being chosen for this assignment and having a career that he has enjoyed.

"[It] has allowed me to go all over the world, make new discoveries, do things I always wanted to do, and make so many great friends along the way," Gauthier said.

Putting people first and customer service are two things that Gauthier feels are very important in his job. He feels that customer service should not end with a simple greeting of welcome at the door.

"I am very focused on customer service delivery," he said. "They [the customers] are the only reason we have a job to come to."

Some of the other things Gauthier thinks are important are Army values, leading by example and good communication.

When talking about the MWR program, he said, "This program has a great reputation. We are all members of a world-class team."

### Oberammergau Has It All!

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# Winnetka-based high school chorus spreads message of hope and tolerance through song

Story and photos by Sue Ferrare

Students taught students through word and song when a U.S. high-school chorus from Winnetka, Ill., came to present their program, "A Still Small Voice," to the Garmisch American School.

The North Shore Country Day School Upper School Chorus presented their performance piece about the Holocaust at the Garmisch school on Nov. 6 during their 8-day Holocaust tour through Germany. The performance was part of a collaborative effort between the choral director and the Holocaust class teacher in hopes of broadening the students' and audience's ideas of the Holocaust and what it means to the world today.

"We wanted to find a vehicle for helping students understand the lessons of the Holocaust and help them ask themselves hard questions about what still needed to be done in terms of promoting tolerance and ending bigotry," said Kevin Randolph, teacher of the Holocaust class for seniors at the Illinois school.

"We [Randolph and I] have assembled a performance piece that makes use of multiple musical genres, text from Holocaust survivors, poetry and prose that we call a meditation on the Holocaust and its meaning," said Michael Querio, the Illinois choral director. "The culmination of the project was an 8-day trip to Germany with visits to historical Holocaust sites of interest including the camps of Dachau, Buchenwald and the Berlin Jewish Museum."

Querio and Randolph explained that this week at their school is called an interim week which is one week in November during which, in lieu of classes, all Upper School students participate in sustained, in-depth experiences outside of the traditional classroom setting.

"Some people at school were encouraging me to do a tour with the choir," Querio said. "I personally didn't want it to be a concert tour just to do a concert tour. I

*We wanted to find a vehicle for helping students understand the lessons of the Holocaust and help them ask themselves the hard questions.*

**Kevin Randolph**  
Teacher

wanted to have a concert tour for a reason, but I hadn't come up with a reason to do a concert tour yet."

"I had taught the Holocaust class for a few years and I'd [wanted] to take an interim trip, and that's where it began," said Randolph.

The program is meant to be a meditation on the Holocaust and its meaning, but Randolph and Querio said they decided to open it up to a broader theme. They incorporated African-American spirituals into the program as well as some Yiddish songs, one of which is a prayer for the peace of Israel.

"I think that the different music that we sing, the variations and the types of music that we sing – African American spirituals – that's all part of our program to show that suffering, and what has gone on, is something that is universal and that everyone experiences it," said Emily Finlay, a senior in the chorus. "It's something that everyone has to overcome, not just from the Holocaust."

"It's the theme of our presentation. Our concert is 'never again,' yet in the Holocaust class we see that it is happening again, so the goal of this is to open our



Michael Querio, choral director at the North Shore Country Day School in Winnetka, Ill., leads the Upper School Chorus during a Nov. 6 performance in Garmisch American School.

eyes to see how we can stop it, how we can prevent it from happening again," said Wesley Keyser, a senior who is in the Holocaust class as well as the chorus.

"It was very powerful to hear about the factual side in [Holocaust] class but then hear about the much more emotional side in chorus and then you can put them together and try to understand the experience," said Becky Hofstein, another senior who is both in the class and the chorus.

Garmisch American School Principal Susan Ussery agreed that it was good to combine the music with learning about the Holocaust.

"This is really a great learning experience to hear the music and some of the readings by people who actually suffered through it," she said. "They [the GAS students and family members] thought it was a beautiful performance, but they especially thought it was very meaningful for the older kids. A lot of our students have gone to

Dachau and other camps with their families, so they have some idea of what the Holocaust is about."

Ussery felt the students enjoyed it for other reasons as well.

"It was a very warm and welcoming reception on both sides," she said. "Our students were very happy to see a group of kids from the States, and they were a little enchanted that they were high-schoolers. I think it was special to them [the Illinois students] that we were Americans, and that they could share their thoughts about the Holocaust."

Randolph explained that he felt the program was effective for everyone, singers and audience, because it blended music and words.

"Nothing soothes our pain like music; nothing reaches people like the power of words," he said. "Our challenge was to blend them seamlessly together and make a single, coherent statement. We [Querio and I] think we have done that."



photos by Sue Ferrare

## Slap shots in Garmisch during All-Sports Day

Garmisch school kids enjoy a day of hockey as members of the SC Riessersee, a professional ice hockey team in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, teach them a variety of ice and floor hockey skills during the Garmisch American School's All-Sports Day held Oct. 12 in the garrison's KVD gymnasium.

[Top] Ania Denikiewicz takes a slap shot Oct. 12 under the watchful eye of Marco Ludwig, an SC Riessersee hockey player.

[Left] Amanda Crownover practices navigating the puck around cones at one of the eight stations set up to help students practice their ice hockey skills.





Sandra Vökl, bassist for the German metal band Equilibrium, lays down a heavy sound during an Oct. 27 live performance at Stuttgart's LKA Longhorn. The club's international lineup features everything from pop to rap to of course, metal.

## A bangin' good time at Stuttgart's LKA Longhorn

Story and photos by Brandon Beach

Stuttgart's LKA Longhorn is more than just a club, it's a temple. "It's one of the last great metal places out there," said Martin Dierolf during a recent Lordi concert.

And by metal, he means that hair bangin' guitar-driven "noise" our parents said was too loud.

At Longhorn, they keep the volume cranked up, way up. Just don't get caught under the two towering speakers on either side of the stage without some proper ear plugs wedged in tight. You might just have an epiphany and throw a bull's horn straight in the air. Or better yet, start to exercise those neck muscles.

At Longhorn, the fans wear black shirts, heavy boots and sleeveless jean jackets with Iron Maiden patches. Don't get nervous standing next to them. They are there simply to have a good time.

"Metal fans are actually very down-to-earth people," said Dierolf.

Besides the fans, there are the bands. Some of the biggest names in rock have graced the stage. The club's upstairs pool room (open on DJ nights, backstage area during a show) is a sort of testimony to this history. Just look up and you can trace the music through the dozens of concert posters wallpapered to the ceiling. W.A.S.P. played here in '90; Nirvana a year later; Megadeth in '97.

That for a club that originally got its name from country music. Back then, in 1984, Longhorn was a western saloon that played that twangy "noise" we told our parents was too loud. It had an American flair and even went so far as to host women's mud wrestling matches and wet t-shirts contests.

Then in the early 90's, divine intervention swooped down, and the club changed its direction. You can see the actual moment depicted in a mural behind

the stage. In the picture, there is a Greek god descending down from the heavens with a microphone in hand and a Gibson Flying V guitar strapped to his waist. Longhorn has never seen the mud since.

The club's December lineup includes Revolverhead (Dec. 3), Madsen (Dec. 10), Die Happy (Dec. 22) and their annual Christmas fest (Dec. 24), it's not for the sleigh bells and Glühwein types.

Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights DJ's play everything from 80's playbacks to Nu metal. Doors open between 8 and 9 p.m.

If you are interested in seeing the new crop of metal out there, visit Longhorn during the Youngster Ball Contest, held every second and last Friday of the month. Watch bands, with likeable names such as "Born From Pain" and "Atrocity," rip up the stage as they compete for a 1,000 euro cash prize and the chance to record some tracks in a live studio. After the contest, DJ's hit the turntables until 5 a.m. You can watch the sun come up. Too bad Denny's hasn't caught on yet here in Germany.

And if you are still not convinced that Longhorn is worth a visit, did I mention that it's a great place to take the kids?

Following Lordi's guitars-in-the-air encore and with the crowd flooding out the doors, Dierolf remembered he forgot something.

"I still have to buy a shirt for my son," he said. "He's 12, and it's a school night, so no chance to bring him."

That's a devoted dad.

For more information visit [www.lka-longhorn.de](http://www.lka-longhorn.de). The club is located on Heiligenwiesen 6 in the Wangen District. To get there take U-Bahn 9 or 13 to Hedelfingerstrasse. Easiest way to find the place is just follow the fans in the black shirts. They won't bite.



[Top] Thomas Jentsch, lead singer of Undertow, belts out a song Oct. 27.

[Bottom] From Nirvana to Eminem, LKA keeps a diverse on-stage lineup.



## OUT & ABOUT

### Fussball in Stuttgart

Catch live Bundesliga action when VfB Stuttgart takes to the field against Borussia Mönchengladbach Nov. 25, 3:30 p.m., in Bad Cannstatt's Gottlieb-Daimler Stadion (S-Bahn Neckarstadion).

For tickets visit [www.vfb-stuttgart.de](http://www.vfb-stuttgart.de) or stop by the stadium's ticket box on game day.

The Stuttgarter Kickers, a professional *fussball* team in the *Regionalliga Süd*, play VfR Aalen Nov. 26, 2:30 p.m., in Gazi Stadium. To get to the stadium, take city train U7 to the Waldau stop or drive in direction to the television tower, a visible Stuttgart landmark.

For more information visit [www.stuttgarter-kickers.de](http://www.stuttgarter-kickers.de).

### Three Musketeers, the musical

SI Centrum's Palladium Theatre presents the swash-buckling musical smash, "The Three Musketeers."

Tickets range from 40 to 139 euro depending on seating and may be purchased by calling 01805-4444.

The theater is located on Plieningerstraße 100, which is a short 5-minute walk from the Kelley Barracks main gate. To get there, take city train U3 to the Salzäcker/SI-Erlebnis-Centrum stop. City buses 74 and 75 will deliver you to the Landhaus stop.

For more information on dates and times visit [www.si-centrum.de](http://www.si-centrum.de).

### Concerts in the Schleyerhalle

The Red Hot Chili Peppers play music from their new album "Stadium Arcadium" Nov. 27, 8 p.m., in Stuttgart's Schleyerhalle, located on Mercedesstraße 69 (U-Bahn 11 to Gottlieb Daimler Stadion). Tickets costs 45 euro.

Wasn't loud enough for you? Iron Maiden makes a stop in Stuttgart during its "A Matter of Life or Death" international tour Dec. 7, 8 p.m. Tickets cost 50 euro.

The next day, catch pop's most "Missundaztood" singer Pink as she performs music from her new album, "I'm Not Dead," Dec. 8, 8 p.m. Tickets for this show cost 41 to 50 euro.

For more information or to purchase tickets for these and other shows visit [www.schleyerhalle.de](http://www.schleyerhalle.de).

### Photo exhibit at IFA

Germany's leading institute on foreign cultural relations is headquartered right here in Stuttgart.

This month, the *Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen*, or IFA, hosts the photo exhibit, "Nafas," a visual journey through various African and Indonesian countries.

The gallery is located on Charlottenplatz 17. To get there, take city train U5 or 6 to the Charlottenplatz stop.

Opening hours are Tuesdays to Fridays, noon to 6 p.m., and weekends, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Additional evening hours are Thursdays until 8 p.m.

For more information visit [www.ifa.de](http://www.ifa.de). The exhibit is open until Jan 7. Entrance is free.

### DAZ events in December

Omar Khalidi, an independent scholar with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will host a slide show and lecture on "Symbols of Successful Integration: American Mosques," a look at Muslims in America, Dec. 7, 6 p.m., in the Deutsch-Amerikanisches Zentrum.

Every month, English speaking people from around the world meet to discuss a variety of topics over food and drink. Known as the "Stammtisch Transatlantic," the group meets Dec. 8, 8 p.m., in Plenum, a restaurant located on Konrad-Adenauer-Straße 3.

Part of the DAZ's Meet the Author series, American poets Dick Davis, Timothy Steele and Robert B. Shaw will give a reading Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m.

The Empire Study Group discusses every month the topic of empire with Lawrence Stallings and Scott Stelle Dec. 8, 5 p.m.

The Baltimore Beauties, a multi-lingual hand sewing and quilting group, meets Dec. 15, 9 a.m. to noon, in the DAZ.

The center is located at Charlottenplatz 17 (U-Bahn 5 or 6). For a complete list of DAZ-sponsored activities visit [www.daz.org](http://www.daz.org) or call 10711-228180.



# Möhringer Christkindlesmarkt

## 31st-annual street market entices with holiday atmosphere

Story by Carola Meusel

**H**oliday lights draped from trees, the smell of fresh *Glühwein* (a traditional hot-spiced red wine featured at German Christmas markets) and baked cinnamon waffles float through the air.

Entering the *Möhringer Christkindles* Market is like stepping into a little winter dream. This magical atmosphere is the perfect start to the most festive season of the year – the beginning of the Christmas season.

This year's market will be held for one day only Dec. 2 and is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For a festive ending to this year's market and as a special start into the advent season, don't miss the opportunity to enjoy the annual Christmas Concert at the Martin Church.

The Möhringer Christmas Market features nearly 60 decorated stands located between the Martin Church and the regional town hall, offering homemade apple-cinnamon marmalade, handmade Christmas decorations, jewelry, candles and a lot of tasteful food like crepes, waffles, Bratwurst and a variety of *Swabian* specialties.

Of course, a glass of hot *Glühwein* is necessary for every visit to a Christmas market, and warms up any holiday shopper. Even for the little ones, this market hides some sweet surprises, from a visit by Santa to leisurely pony rides.



Brandon Beach

*A young street musician fills the air with holiday music, while earning some extra euro from the many passerbys, during last year's Möhringer Christkindlesmarkt.*

This particular Christmas market is located in the old town center of Möhringen, next to the landmark of the city – the Martin Church, also known as the "*Filderdom*." Built between 1852 and 1855 in the new gothic style, the church's tower stands 63 meters high. The regional town hall, which sets behind it, was built in 1836 to 1837 and also serves as a historical frame

for this warm event.

Besides this seasonally romantic atmosphere, there is another reason for visiting this market. It's tradition dates back to the year 1975, and this market is known as the biggest fund-raising Christmas market in the region of Stuttgart.

The market only exists because of the dedication and belief in the good will of

helping others – which is the true reason for the holiday season. All money from this market is collected by local organizations in support of needy people in the city of Möhringen, including *Sonnenberg* and *Fasanenhof*.

Collections also go toward helping those with cancer or various other diseases and funding special projects: like building a *Bürgerzentrum* (a community center) in the district of Möhringen.

Selflessly, the market is organized by volunteers working throughout the year on their wares to sell. Every year some 500 to 600 volunteers keep the annual market alive, and this indicates the most convincing fact; with a glass of *Glühwein* or a little present, be it between 2 and 25 euros, you are helping.

*Frau Gerda Fischer*, the main organizer of this market, lives by the motto, "No good comes from nothing," and this has been the message over the last 31 years. Also city officials, like the regional directors of Stuttgart, sell *Bratwurst* and crepes to support the market's message.

Military community members should not miss this year's market with its enjoyable and local character. Especially those living in and around Kelley Barracks, it is just a five-minute drive by car or a short walk.

The market is located in the inner city of Möhringen around the "*Bezirksrathaus*" (regional town hall) and the Martin Church on *Maierstrasse*.

## Program provides U.S. citizens with up-close look at city, state governments in Stuttgart

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

**M**embers of the Stuttgart military community are invited to spend Dec. 11 as guests of the City of Stuttgart and the State of Baden-Württemberg.

The Capital City Visitation Program provides service members, civilians and spouses with an overview of Baden-Württemberg as well as an up-close look at the the State Parliament, the State Government and the City of Stuttgart.

This is an excellent opportunity to provide an understanding of the history shared by the U.S. Forces and the State of Baden-Württemberg, with special emphasis on the crucial role the United States played in reconstructing war-torn Germany and providing it with its present-day democratic constitution.

The daylong program begins at the State Parliament with a presentation on Germany's political structure and current political situation as well as a comparison to the U.S. political system.

The presentation will also include a film about the State of Baden-Württemberg. Following the presentations, a luncheon will be hosted for all participants in either the restaurant of the State Parliament or in the "Ratskeller" as guests of the City of Stuttgart.

A tour guide will then join the group to provide a guided walking tour to the adjacent State Theater, Neues Schloß and Altes Schloß and the Market Hall of Stuttgart. The program concludes with a reception at the City Hall with the Lord Mayor or a personal envoy of the Lord Mayor.

The presentation at the City Hall also includes a film showing some of the highlights of the city of Stuttgart and the state of Baden-Württemberg.



*The Kunst Museum on the popular Schlossplatz in downtown Stuttgart is one of many stops during the Capital City Visitation Program. The next tour is Dec. 11. Started in 1993, the program has hosted over 2,200 U.S. personnel.*

Each participant will receive informative handouts in the form of brochures and books from both the State Parliament and the City of Stuttgart, covering a myriad of topics on history, politics and culture, as well as taking a light-hearted look at "those strange German ways."

There are no costs or fees for individuals who participate in this program. Transportation to and from downtown Stuttgart will be via bus provided by U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart. The bus will depart from Patch Barracks at 9:30 a.m. and return at approximately 4:30 p.m.

For service members and other military personnel who sign up for the tour, their place of duty for that day is with

the tour.

Due to force protection considerations, the uniform for the day is appropriate civilian attire that presents a respectable positive image for the U.S. military.

Also, please note that this tour is not designed for children.

*For more information or to register for the tour call 431-2599/ civ. 07031-15-2599, e-mail nelly.x.williams@us.army.mil or visit the USAG Stuttgart In-Processing Center on the first floor of the Community Welcome Center on Panzer Kaserne.*



*A U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart holiday tradition ...*

# *Winterfest 2006*

*Friday, December 1*

*Patch Barracks - Washington Square*

*Events begin at 5 p.m.*

- *Tree-lighting ceremony*
- *Traditional Christmas Market*
- *Children visit with Santa*
- *Elementary School choirs*
- *Delicious seasonal delicacies*
- *Tree-decorating contest*
- *A performance by Jenny Boyle  
(Armed Forces Entertainment)*
- *And so much more*

*Celebrate the season with family & friends*